(a) whether the use of LPG for motor vehicles will be permitted;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) LPG is recognised as an environment friendly transportation fuel. Therefore, with a view to promote the use of LPG as automotive fuel in the country, in a safe manner, several regulations are required. The use of LPG as automotive fuel will commence as soon as amendments in the Motor Vehicles Act etc. is made.

LPG dealers in Guwahati

385. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of LPG dealers in Guwahati district of Assam and number of connections with each of them;

(b) whether it is a fact that the most of those dealers are black-marketing LPG cylinders by showing the shortage of LPG; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) As on 1.10.99 there were 28 LPG distributorships with 2,37,987 customers in Kamrup District which includes Guwahati in Assam.

(b) and (c) Recently no complaint of black marketing of LPG has been received by the Oil Companies against the above distributors. Complaints were, however, received during last year against two distributors about diversion of refills, and action was taken against them by the oil Companies.

Production and Demand of Petroleum Products

386. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of present gap in the production and demand of petrol, kerosene and other petroleum products in the country and extent of their imports made during** the last five years and till date;

(b) the details of production of petroleum products during Eighth Plan; and

(c) the details of total investment proposed in the petroleum products in the country during the Ninth Plan particularly in the NER?